

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace, without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A method for triggering a two-stage belt tensioner, comprising:
triggering a first stage of the belt tensioner before a first airbag stage; and
triggering a second stage of the belt tensioner as a function of a crash severity and a sitting position, the crash severity being determined by at least one signal derived from an acceleration ascertained during a collision, and the sitting position ~~determining~~ influencing an evaluation of the at least one signal.

9. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein, if the crash severity indicates a hard crash, the second stage is triggered after a specified time following the triggering of the first stage.

10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein, if the crash severity indicates a soft crash, the second stage is triggered as a function of a signal pattern of the at least one signal.

11. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein the second stage is triggered with ~~the~~ a second airbag stage.

12. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 8, further comprising:
triggering a knee airbag simultaneously with the second stage of the belt tensioner.

13. (Currently Amended) A triggering device comprising:
a control unit configured to trigger a first stage of a two-stage belt tensioner before a first airbag stage, the device further configured to trigger a second stage ~~to~~ of the belt tensioner as a function of a crash severity and a sitting position, the crash severity being

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determined by at least one signal derived from an acceleration ascertained during a collision and the sitting position ~~determining~~ influencing an evaluation of the at least one signal.

14. (Previously Presented) The triggering device as recited in claim 13, further comprising:
an external crash sensor to determine the acceleration.